

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER



November/December 2025 & January 2026

► Upcoming Events ◀

November 8th - Holly Mart

November 27th - Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving

November 30th - Decorating Ebenezer for Christmas

December 1st - Administrative Council

December 7th - Christmas Luncheon
after Worship Service

December 14th - Chancel Choir Cantata
11:00 AM

December 21st - Family Christmas Service
11:00 AM

December 24th - Christmas Eve Services
8:00 & 10:00 PM

December 25th - Christmas Day!

December 28th - One Service Only- 11:00 AM

Worship Sundays

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 AM

Worship on Facebook

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Worship Services
(11:00 AM only)

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Website

Ebenezerumchurch.org

Church Phone: 410-795-6136

Pastor's Office: 410-795-1237

Church Email

eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Pastor's Email

REVJAE@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Judith A. Emerson

Music Director: Linda Bange

Secretary: Lori Rapids

Treasurers: Steve & Katie Cave

Nursery Coordinators:

Lisa Humphries,
Meredith & Susan Rodriguez

4901 Woodbine Road. Sykesville, MD 21784

A Message from Your Pastor

As we approach Thanksgiving Day most of us will be sharing expressions of gratitude with friends and family. There are times in life when words of thanksgiving come rather easily. There are other times when words of praise and thanksgiving seem difficult. In these moments, I find myself giving thanks for how God is with me during all seasons and experiences.

Ebenezer's annual Holly Mart is almost here and shortly after we will be amid Advent and Christmas. Sometimes different words get associated with the four weeks before Christmas that we know as Advent:

Hope — The Christian virtue of hope is about much more than just a positive feeling. It is rooted in a confidence that God is with us, that he always has been with us, and he always will be with us. We can look back and remember the times when God brought light and new life. As we live in a dark and frightening world, we light the candle of Hope.

Peace — What robs us of our peace is not so much the death of a loved one, job loss, busyness, economic uncertainty, discouraging news stories, or the weight of responsibilities. It is thinking that I have to figure it out, I must make it work and I'm just not able to. When we remember that God is with us, we also realize that we can let God do the heavy lifting if I do my part. That realization allows us to light the candle of peace.

Joy — Joy isn't something we find, make, or keep; it's something that finds us. As you go about your day doing the small part that God asks of you, you will find joy in your life. It comes from the answered prayers, the moments of love, and the flashes of gratitude. We light the candle of joy, the pink one, with the realization that God has even greater joys planned for us.

Love — The theme of love fills our Christmas season. Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbor (*Matthew 22:36-40*). Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent Wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth. The candle of Love is all encompassing.

No matter our personal traditions, we can trust that virtues such as hope, peace, joy, and love are important in the Christmas story as well as in our daily walk with Christ. May we be a people of hope, peace, joy and love that rejoices in the light that Christmas brings. I pray that you and your family will have a Blessed Christmas, and a grace filled New Year.

Blessings,
Rev. Judy



Lighting The Advent Wreath

We will need people to light the Advent wreath during worship again this year. You and your family or you and someone from your church family can join together and participate in worship in a meaningful way. The readings will be emailed beforehand. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in November. Please prayerfully consider participating in worship in this special way during the Advent Season.

ADVENT STUDY ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings beginning November 30th from 9:45 - 10:45 AM in Classroom 1
Please join us as Rev. Rick Gray helps us examine the history of Christmas hymns and carols. This season will be more meaningful after learning the background of each hymn. All are welcome.

NIGHT BY NIGHT SHELTER

Ebenezer continues to support the *Night-by-Night Shelter* at 127 Stoner Avenue in Westminster with dinner the third Sunday of each month. Signup slots are available. If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4babag2ba2fb6-cold>
and Scott Murchie will contact you the beginning of the week with a reminder and to arrange drop-off of food in the church kitchen, either ahead of time or at 5:30 PM Sunday for hot dishes. Arrangements can also be made for food to be picked up.

Thank you!



**Don't forget to bring in your used ink cartridges so we can get \$\$\$\$ for our church!
See Debbie Paulsgrove with any questions!**



Holly Mart Craft Group

Thanks again for another good year. Holly Mart is almost here and we still need some help at the craft table. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. We need help setting up the craft section at the fire hall on Thursday, November 6th. We will be transporting all the crafts from the church beginning at 8:30 AM, hoping to begin setting up by 10:00 AM at the fire hall. We will also need help when Holly Mart is over to pack up and transport things back to the Social Hall for after-sales the next two Sundays. Thanks in advance for your help and support. Please see Linda Bennett with any questions!

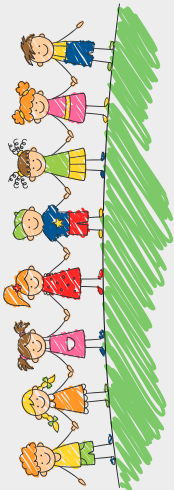
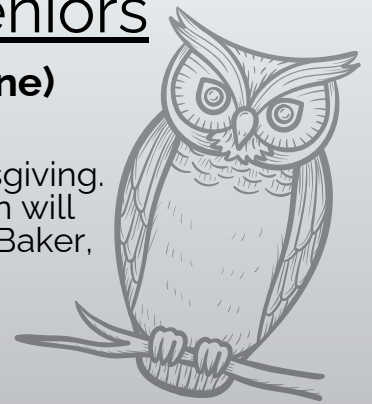
OWLS - Older Wiser Livelier Seniors

**First Wednesday of Every Month (Sept.-June)
Noon - 2:00 PM**

The OWLS will be playing charades in November with a bow to Thanksgiving. January will see us welcoming in the new year of 2026. The most fun will come in February, when our very own Hall of Fame member, Brenda Baker, gets us moving with leaps and bounds.

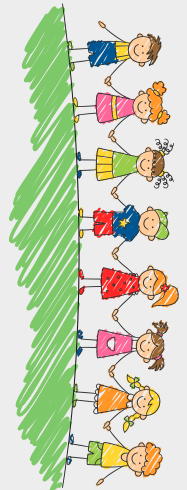
Everyone is welcome to join this group. Wish you would!

Diane Biddinger,
Head of Mission Control



SUNDAY SCHOOL

An exciting new Sunday School year has begun! The younger classes have been studying - Genesis, Noah and Abraham. We will continue with the Old Testament and then move into the New Testament with the birth of Jesus! We will have our traditional birthday party for Jesus in January! Stay tuned for the invitation!



Children's Church

The 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, September through May,
from 11 AM to 12 PM.

All children ages 4-15 are welcome to join us!



We have enjoyed the children and youth helpers. We focused on the Bible the first sessions. We are now going to look at Heaven using Barbara Hare's wordless picture book and then do a service project on Nov. 23. We will be making a dessert for the Hoffa house. December and January will find us focusing on the Christmas story!

Thank you, Meghan Estes & Joanne Davis



HOLLY MART 2025



Please contact the Holly Mart Chairman, Valerie Hyer, with any general questions at narrovh1@comcast.net or 410-489-2546.

Our annual Holly Mart is fast approaching!

Here are ways you can still help to make this event a success:

1. There is still plenty of time to participate in this event, which is EUMC's biggest fund raiser. Sign up to help in the various areas that are posted on the sheets in the Narthex. There are plenty of opportunities such as making cheese balls, donating candy or baked items, or helping with set up, parking or clean up.

2. Donate items for the Silent Auction. Items such as gift baskets, gift certificates, decorative items, items from specialty catalogs (i.e., Smith Island Cake), and high-end decorative items. This year, we would also like to expand to "experiential" items such as sports or theater tickets or time share donations.

Contact Kim Cooper kacooper945@gmail.com for more information.

3. Make cash donations for items such as kitchen food purchases. These can be given to Lori Rapids in the church office or dropped into the offering plate. Just make sure that you indicate on the memo line that it is for the Holly Mart.

4. Publicize the Holly Mart among your friends. A good way of doing this is to share information about Holly Mart if you have a Facebook account.

5. Attend the Holly Mart on Saturday, November 8th from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at the Winfield Fire Hall.

We have increased our income from Holly Mart in each of the last several years. With your help, we will continue this trend. Our church may be small, but it is certainly mighty. Thank you all in advance for your support of the 2025 Holly Mart!





Friendsgiving Potluck Thanksgiving Day

November 27, 2025

1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Ebenezer

You are invited to come and join those of us who are not traveling, or have other plans for this day. We all bring a dish to pass and have a wonderful meal and fellowship together.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

*If you have any questions, please see
Nancy Thompson or call 410-241-1509.*



Pavilion Building Fund



Help us build a new outdoor ministry space on our property behind the food pantry. This could be used for so many activities for our church family, including for VBS, youth, picnics and so much more. If you would like to donate, just mark "Pavilion Fund" on your check. You can also donate in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Hoffa House

The Hoffa House is a local home where 7-8 men live while recovering from addiction. Our church provides dinner once a month for 10-12 men during their Monday meetings. These meetings help the Hoffa Foundation board members stay connected with the residents and give the men a chance to reflect on their positive and negative experiences each week.

Our church has been incredibly supportive of this nonprofit organization, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year to prepare meals for the group. We will continue to provide meals for the Hoffa House and, if you're able to help, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Meals can be homemade, or you can donate gift cards, which I will be happy to pick up. The mission of the Hoffa House has been deeply appreciated.

Meghan Estes

Ebenezer's Annual Christmas Luncheon

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 7th

12:15 PM Appetizers

12:45 PM Buffet Luncheon

Menu

Appetizers

Fried Chicken and Ham

Tossed Salad

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans and Glazed Carrots

Dinner Rolls

Dessert

Adults - \$18

Children (6-10) - \$9

Children (5 and under) - Free

Contact: Sandy Wean – 410-596-1748

Cheri Holl -- 410-967-1668

Lori Rapids – 410-795-6136

kswean@comcast.net or

eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Reservations must be made no later than 11/30/25



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

Ceremony to begin at Noon

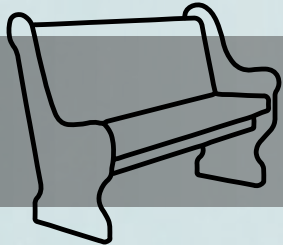
Ebenezer United Methodist Church will again be participating as we honor the veterans buried here in our church cemetery. We are looking for veterans to place the ceremonial wreaths during the ceremony. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, see Cindi directly or contact her at darno455@aol.com. We will be taking wreath sponsorships - \$17 per wreath - which will defray costs for the wreaths used during the ceremony. Please make sure to designate the funds to Ebenezer UMC Cemetery. If they are in memory of someone specific, please note that as well. All forms and money need to be turned in to Cindi by the end of November. Checks should be written directly to Wreaths Across America. We have 52 veterans here in our cemetery and have been honored to be able to place a wreath at each with donations we received.



Decorating Ebenezer for Christmas

On Sunday, November 30, 2025, immediately following the late service, we will begin decorating the church for Christmas. Help is needed putting trees up in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and decorating both rooms. If you can lend a hand for an hour or so, please plan on staying after worship. We will be taking decorations down after worship on January 4th and will need help with that as well.





A View from the Pew

By Ellie Baublitz

MEET RUTH HESEN

Ruth Hesen joined her daughter and son-in-law, Doug and Becca Flater, at Ebenezer in 2019 after transferring from Calvary UMC in Mount Airy. The family knew neighbors who also attended EUMC. Several things drew Ruth besides her family. "I knew Cindi Arnold from Scouts and had watched Linda play the organ and I was impressed by the singing. While at the potluck lunch at Krimgold Park, I saw a neighbor from Mount Airy, Kathy McGehrin," Ruth recalled. This was when the new building was almost finished and Ruth remembered Cindi telling her, "If you build it, they will come." So Ruth came!

Ruth looks forward to Rev. Judy's sermon each week and how the message not only teaches her something, but also touches her heart. She also enjoys Pastor Rick's weekly Bible study, OWLS each month, especially the potluck lunches, co-chairing the Holly Mart Bake Table with Becca, being the meals coordinator for C.R.E.W. and playing the bells for its first two years of revival.

Born in Weston, WVA, but raised in Maryland and Iowa, the latter from where she graduated high school, she grew up in her father's Lutheran church. She was first married to Robert Browning and had three daughters: Becca, Angela and Tracie. The family lived in Bowie until 1993 when they moved to Mount Airy. The girls then graduated from South Carroll High School. The couple divorced in 2001 after 25 years and Ruth relocated to Winfield. For 34 years she worked as a department lead in customer service for District Photo in Beltsville, retiring in 2022. Ruth met her current husband, Steve, some years ago when he worked with her mother at Rental Tools as an assistant manager. He too was married, but later divorced after only a few years. After both divorces, they reconnected with the help of Ruth's mother, started dating, then married in November of 2005. Since then Steve bought an 18-wheeler rig and drove his truck independently before selling it to a driver at Angle Trucking, where he worked as a mechanic until they downsized. He currently works for Gearhouse in Baltimore repairing differentials, steering columns and transmissions.

They are devoted to their blended family who are close-knit and live by Christian principles. Becca and Doug have two sons, Justin and Kyle; Angela and husband Chris have a daughter, Aubrey, and son, Colton; and Tracie and husband Brian have a beagle pup. Steve has two children from his first marriage. Erin and husband Mike have a son, Ethan, and two daughters, Caralyn and Stella. Travis and wife Jaime have a young daughter, Hayden.

Besides church and "staying connected to family," Ruth enjoys reading autobiographies, working jigsaw puzzles, taking train rides to see the fall foliage and has embraced her mother's love of hummingbirds. She would also like to get back to joining a bowling league. Steve "likes tinkering with stuff and is a good mechanic," Ruth said. "He has a passion when it comes to mowing and when it's done, it's beautiful. He's a better cook than me. He's great around the house, too, and not afraid to run the vacuum." But maybe his favorite thing is being known as Papa Smurf to the grandkids. "He's short and he always said 'I'm going to be a Papa Smurf someday,'" Ruth said. But the best thing of all for Ruth? "Love is better the second time around!"

Pill Bottle Program Continues its Success

(but remember to wash out those bottles!)

Thanks to all of you, our Pill Bottle Recycling program continues to make an impact. Over 1,600 bottles have been sent to Matthew 25 Ministries this year. These bottles are shipped all over the world and to many U.S. states. You can find out more about where the medical shipments have been sent by using this link: <https://m25m.org/work/humanitarian-aid/>. It is VERY important that your donated bottles are washed. All pills leave a residue in the bottle, sometimes it is obvious, sometimes it isn't. Please wash them to prevent allergic reactions and cross-contamination. Some destinations do not have water available for cleaning the bottles.

Thanks for your support of this worthwhile ministry!

Pickle, Jam, Jelly & Relish Sale 2025

Thanks to everyone for your generosity in donating and purchasing all of our canned goods! It was a very successful fundraiser which will add to our Holly Mart total!

*Thanks again from the
Ebenezer Cannery*

Greeting Cards for ARC

There is a basket in the narthex for any greeting cards you want to pass along. Any occasions, new or used are appreciated. After Christmas we will also collect those Christmas cards!

Holly Mart Candy Table

Thanks in advance for donations of your favorite holiday candies again this year. Please check the signup sheets to see if you can help during Holly Mart or just stop in the day of to see if you can fill in, even for a short time. All help is appreciated!

Questions: Laura Scott or Linda Bennett

NURSERY ASSISTANCE

If you are age 16 or above and able to help in the nursery during worship once a month, please let the church office know. We have a staff member there each week. However, in accordance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy it would be helpful to have another person present in the room. Assistance is needed from 8:20 AM to 9:30 AM then from 10:45 AM to 12:00 Noon.



Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Join Rev. Rick Gray weekly to discuss the Corinthian Letters and how they can be applied to present day. This is always a fun, informative time to be together!





YOUTH GROUP

Ebenezer's Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th grade and higher (including our college/young adults no longer in school)

We meet typically every other week on a Sunday evening from 6 -8 PM. Watch for current month scheduling and come join the fun!

UPCOMING DATES

November 16th

Progressive Dinner

5:00 - 8:15 PM

November 30th

Cookie Bakeoff

11:00 -3:00 PM

December 14th

Christmas Party/Caroling

Youth Room

6:00 - 8:00 PM

December 21st

Children's Christmas Service

11:00 AM

December 28th

Trivia Night

Youth Room

6:00 - 8:00 PM

January 11th

Bowling

6:00-8:00 PM

January 25th

Regular Meeting

Youth Room

6:00 - 8:00 PM

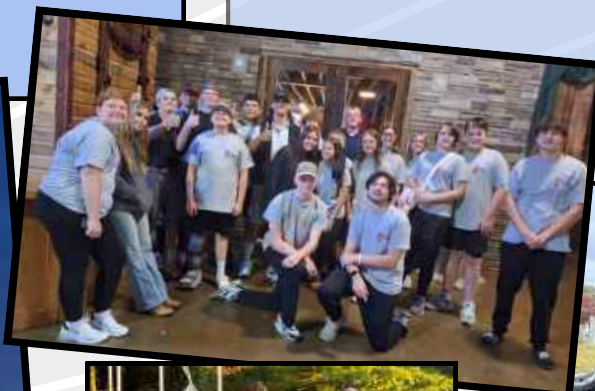
Youth Group 2025-2026

While youth group was originally centered around our church kids in grades 6 through 12, we have gradually expanded that notion. Lucky for us, some of our college age kids still come back when they can, and our youth feel confident enough to bring their friends with them!

We, as leaders, are thrilled that we can provide a 'safe space' for our youth to be able to 'gather with like-minded people' - a phrase Mr. Doug likes to use a lot.

We started the season out with a cookout and some water games. It's amazing how many kids want to hug you when they are wet! Meeting one was a rousing success! We made our annual trip to Adventure Park for some mini golf. This was a big one, as we had 21 youth in attendance. We have some very competitive youth! Our planned hike hit a roadblock and we switched to plan B - Pizza, fire and 9 square. Can't go wrong with that combination. We spent another Sunday cleaning out the Cemetery. While doing some general maintenance, they also discovered a few more Veteran unmarked gravesites. We ended our first two months with a trip to Magnolia Farms. We rented a fire pit as home base while exploring the corn maze.

Looking forward to another fun filled year!



Food Pantry

Our pantry continues to serve our community each month, and we have a good time together! Everyone enjoys talking with the families, offering them "extras" along with their bags of food. In August we served 69 families and gave out quite a few pairs of new shoes for the children to wear back to school. We love seeing their smiling faces when they like the shoes! God has so richly blessed our congregation and it is wonderful that we can bless these families.

If you have any questions about the pantry or would like to volunteer, text Sue Bergmann @ 410-259-1265

Recycling

All funds go to the Food Pantry!

Thank you for your continued efforts for recycling. We all are keeping these items out of the landfills and the funds received are helping with needs for the Food Pantry.

December reminder - don't throw away those Christmas lights that don't work anymore, they are recyclable!

Thank you for your participation!

If you have larger items or questions, please contact the Thompsons @410-241-1509.



Food Pantry Monthly Needs

January – Laundry Detergent
February – Shampoo/Conditioner
March – Toilet Paper
April – Household Cleaners (Mr. Clean, etc.)
May – Deodorant
June – Body Wash/Soap
July – Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
August – Liquid Dish Soap
September – Paper Towels
October – Toilet Cleaner
November – Bleach
December – Fabric Softener (liquid/dryer sheets)



Compassion Closet

We are getting into the cooler weather. The needs for the Compassion Closet are for winter clothes, blankets, coats, gloves etc. Drop offs are not to be left outside of the building. Please contact Nancy Thompson with any donations and she will be happy to meet you. We are excepting Christmas decor (no trees) for November 15th and December 20th. Thank you for your thoughtful donations.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Thompson @410-241-1509.



Leadership Changes as of January 1, 2026



Please be sure to pick up a 2026 Church Leadership Roster from the Narthex in December. Check to see which committees you are serving on for the coming year. Some committees have a group listing with the year stated above. This means you will serve on the committee until the end of the stated year. For example, if you are listed under the class of 2025 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2026. If you have questions about your leadership role for this year, please contact the church office. A special thank you to the leaders of Ebenezer UMC who have completed their service on a committee in 2025. Your dedication and leadership is a true blessing to the ministries of our church. May God bless you as you continue to serve your church and community.

Planning Day 2026

Our annual planning day will be on a Sunday this year. We will meet after the 11:00 AM worship service on **Sunday, February 1st**, for a covered dish luncheon and to plan for 2026. Please plan on joining us! We will conclude our meeting no later than 3:00 PM. As always, our discussion will include reflections on our blessings from 2025, setting goals, establishing fundraising activities and discerning God's vision for Ebenezer for the coming year. After Christmas there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

All are welcome to to join us as we eat and meet and plan for the year ahead!



Women's Retreat 2026

March 6-8, 2026



Our retreat this year will be at the church in our beautiful fellowship hall. We will begin on Friday evening enjoying a movie together (you can even wear your pajamas), head home to get a good night of sleep on a comfortable mattress and return in the morning for a full day of faith, fun, food and fellowship. If you can't make it Friday night, you can watch the movie at home so you are ready for Saturday. Brochures and registration forms will be available in January.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

NOVEMBER

2 Hope Allen
2 Sandy Wean
3 Doug Flater
4 Eileen Fries
8 Nancy Newcomer
9 Sue Bergmann
9 Brae Blocher
11 Rebecca Wisner
14 Kathy McGehrin
16 Ann Adams
21 Matt Middleton
21 Travis Saulsbury
23 Mike Nickey
25 Ellie Baublitz
26 Jim Rhodes
26 Kate Luette
27 Laura Scott
28 Rachel Biddinger

DECEMBER

1 Julie Jones
1 Peggy McClelland
3 Michael Torosky
5 Frank Zamosny
9 Norman Zepp
10 Amanda Lowe
12 Dan Newcomer
13 Eric Rapids
13 Gerry Bennett
14 Sarah Humphries
14 Chuck Shacochis
17 Scott Murchie
17 Nancy Thompson
22 Rebecca Estes
23 Derek Jones
27 Angie Jones
27 Bella Mosko
29 Barb Conaway

JANUARY

2 Cindi Arnold
3 Shaun Arnold
8 Steve Luette
11 Kayla Middleton
20 Valerie Paulsgrove
27 Valerie Hyer
28 Steve Bergmann Jr
30 William Streaker
30 Caleb Saulsbury
31 Brian Middleton

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

7 Ed & Sandy Newsome
19 Ruth & Steve Heslen

DECEMBER

11 Bob & Ann Churchman
16 Dave & Sandy Biddinger

JANUARY

4 Scott & Kim Murchie
26 Bob & Dawn Stevens

IN MEMORIUM

Eunice Fairchild 6/16/2025
Lainey Brown 8/20/2025

Janet Barnes 9/1/2025
Cheryl Roelle 10/02/2025

*Thank
you!*

We would like to thank everyone for their cards, emails, prayers and many words of comfort and sympathy on the passing of our Father, Father-in-law and Grampa, Richard Rapids. Your love and support helped make a difficult and sad situation more bearable. Thank you all so very much.

With love, Brian, Lori, Andrew, David, Chris & Eric Rapids



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Make fundraising part of your everyday life with gift cards purchased through RaiseRight.



Multiple card types

eGift cards

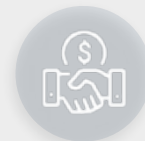
Digital gift cards delivered electronically within minutes.

Physical gift cards

Plastic or paper-based gift cards that can be shipped to your organization or direct to your home.

Reloadable gift cards

Allows you to automatically reload funds onto physical gift cards purchased through RaiseRight.



Safe & secure payment options

Add your bank account or pay with a debit or credit card to enjoy the on-demand convenience of online payments.

Get eGift cards delivered immediately

Access exclusive benefits like ship to home delivery

Earn 4x more than people who don't pay online

Convenience fees apply based on payment method.



Earning on-the-go

The RaiseRight mobile app puts earning at your fingertips—in the checkout lane, at the gas pump, out to dinner, or even from the comfort of your couch.

Shop and buy gift cards

View earnings

Access and use your gift cards

Download the free RaiseRight mobile app for iOS or Android.



Ship to home delivery feature

Get your gift cards delivered right to your door.

250+ brand options—perfect for self-use and gifting

Available from the mobile app and on RaiseRight.com

Look for brands labeled as "Ship to home eligible"

Shipping fees apply.

www.raiseright.com
EUMC Enrollment Code:
3442E78357829

